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U.S. PAT. APP. SER. NO. (NOT YET ASSIGNED)  
ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. 1717743**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

IN RE PATENT APPLICATION OF:

LERCHBAUM, ET AL.

U.S. APP. SERIAL NO.: (NOT YET ASSIGNED)

U.S. NATIONAL STAGE OF PCT/AT2005/000084

U.S. FILING DATE: (NOT YET ASSIGNED)

FOR: SLIDE-RING GASKET

EXAMINER:

GROUP ART UNIT:

Mail Stop PCT  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT****INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS:**

Prior to calculation of the filing fee and examination of this new PCT-US national stage application filed under 35 U.S.C. §371, the following Amendments and Remarks are submitted. The following changes are made relative to the amended claims that are currently pending in the international stage. It is requested that the following amendments be entered, and that the Examiner pass this application to allowance.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims beginning on page 3 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 6 of this paper.